



Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Friday
August 11,
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 20

Governor Togiola proposes new certified system for airport with FAA when weather advisory service contract runs out next month

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono has written to Mr. Ronnie V. Simpson, Manager-Airports District Office, Western Pacific Region of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Honolulu in regards to the Pago Pago International Airport Weather Advisory contract that will expire next month -- September 30th.

Governor Togiola said in his August 3rd letter to Mr. Simpson that American Samoa is not going to be able to support the continuation of the advisory service contract.

“As much as we would like to do so, we are not financially capable to take this function over,” said Governor Togiola in his two-page letter. “However, it has been brought to my attention that there are inexpensive machines that can be mounted at the airport, and have proven its capability to provide weather information to traffic coming into our airport.”

The Governor said it has been confirmed that a machine known as “Superunicom,” also known as “SuperAWOS” has been certified for weather advisory function use by the FAA and is eligible for funding through Airport Improvement Projects (AIP) grants. This new system is will operate on a frequency accessible to all pilots that requires

“I have found that the cost of the single equipment system is around \$70,000 installed and the maintenance cost is very minimal,” said Governor Togiola. “However, in reviewing the capabilities of this system, I do believe it does provide the advisory information that is needed for traffic at Pago Pago International Airport.”

The pilot-controlled ‘Superunicom’ automated system, developed by Potomac Aviation Technology Corporation of Ft. Washington, Maryland, through a series of radio clicks, pilots can receive a basic airport advisory, extended advisory and radio transmission check, all originating from a maintenance-free system not much bigger than a television box. The Superunicom system operates on a frequency accessible to all pilots of inbound flights and not on the radio frequency that triggers turning on of the runway lights.

The system speaks with clear, natural voice and composes its greetings and advisory messages from digitally recorded human speech. The system’s voice and behavior is so human some pilots have mistaken it for a live person.

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Dr. Karolyn Braun (far left) of ASCC is seen here cultivating some future Marine Science majors. Dr. Braun recently accompanied a number of ASCC students to the "Islands of the World" conference in Maui, Hawaii. (Photo courtesy ASCC Sea Grant)

ASCC Students Conduct Environmental and Cultural Exchange in Maui

By Dr. Karolyn Braun, Marine Science Program Director

(ASCC Press Release) Eight students enrolled in the American Samoa Community College’s MSC/AGR 297 Environmental and Cultural Service Learning Course just returned from Hawaii after a 10-day intensive course working with various agencies on the island of Maui. The participants started with a two-day community service project assisting the Haleakala National Park with invasive plant eradication, native plant replenishment and trail maintenance. The participants also traveled to Lanai to conduct a Coral Reef clean-up and explore the history of the island. The highlight of the course was attending the three-day “Islands of the World IX” conference held by the International Small Islands Studies Association in partnership with Maui Community College.

Scholars and experts who study issues and problems on small islands made presentations, led discussions, and interacted with international colleagues. The general theme of the conference was Sustainable Islands — Sustainable Strategies, with emphasis on the interconnected topics of *po’okela* (economy), *mālama ʻāina* (ecology), and *hoʻohanohano* (social equity and heritage.) American Samoa students contributed two presentations. Forest Duldulao and Derek Toloumu presented on “Ground-Truthing Fisheries Stock Data: Comparing Scientific Evidence to Traditional Ecological Knowledge,” and Hugo Gebauer and Della Tuamoheloa spoke on “The Status of Coral Reefs in American Samoa.”

(Continued on page 2)

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On August 2, 1978, Congressman Philip Burton (D-CA) introduced legislation to provide that the Territory of American Samoa be represented by a nonvoting Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. This became Public Law 95-556 and was made effective October 31, 1978. In the case of the office of the Delegate, American Samoa's federal election laws were patterned after those of the Virgin Islands and Guam. At the time, consideration was not given to whether or not majority or plurality voting should be established for American Samoa. Congress simply enacted legislation to provide American Samoa with representation in the U.S. Congress. No one foresaw 25 years ago that American Samoa's men and women would serve in record numbers in the U.S. Armed Forces which consequently made it impossible for them to participate in runoff elections held two weeks after general elections.

On August 2, 1929, Captain Gatewood Sanders Lincoln relieved Captain Stephen Victor Graham, and took office as American Samoa's 18th naval governor (until March 24, 1931).

On August 4, 1905, volcanic activity began on Savai'i's northwest coast, as Mount Matavanu erupted. The eruption "almost wiped out Lealatele district and much of Saleaula. People re-established in Leauvaa and Salamumu respectively. The volcano was active until September 1911."

On August 5, 1878, U.S. Commissioner Gustavus W. Goward and some chiefs of Tutuila signed agreements transferring certain lands in Fagatogo to the U.S. Navy for use as a coaling station. Goward raised the American flag over Goat Island.

On August 5, 1898, the U.S. Navy Department ordered civil engineer Frank T. Chambers to proceed to Tutuila to construct a wharf, coal shed and other buildings, including an administration building (which subsequently became the Courthouse: Navy Building No. 21).

On August 5, 1953, Lawrence McCully Judd ended his term as American Samoa's fourth appointed civil governor (since March 4, 1953). He resigned because of poor health.

On August 6, 1914, the German steamer *Staatssekretär Solf* (State Secretary Solf), a "small (350 tons) slow wooden vessel of little value" arrived in Pago Pago Harbor seeking refuge from possible capture in German Samoa. She remained in Pago Pago, flying the German flag, until April 7, 1917, when the United States declared war on Germany and seized her.

On August 8, 1903, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 46: Quarters, Utulei," totalling 1.20 acres, from "Afoa" for \$530.00, and "Parcel No. 47: Mauga o Ali'i," 1.10 acres, from "Afoa, Tuaua, Samoan Chiefs & Taesali" for \$200.00. (This purchase was completed on May 23, 1904).

On August 8, 1940, Lieutenant Commander Jesse Rink Wallace ended his nine-day term as 27th naval governor (acting: since July 30, 1940) of American Samoa.

On August 8, 1940, Captain Laurence Wild relieved Lieutenant Commander Jesse Rink Wallace and became American Samoa's 28th naval governor (until June 5, 1942).

On August 10, 1900, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, apprised the Assistant Secretary of the Navy of the progress that had been made in establishing a government for the eastern Samoan islands. "I am glad," he wrote, "that I am able to report that everything connected with the new government is progressing in a most satisfactory manner, in all the islands. The natives show much interest in the new methods of government and they are striving to learn and comply with my wishes. The general condition of the people could not be more satisfactory, they are quiet everywhere and are improving their roads, cleaning up the villages and their surroundings and planting their gardens and plantations. Prosperity for the islands seems fully assured."

On August 11, 1925, Margaret Mead, age 24, arrived in American Samoa aboard the SS *Sonoma*.

Environmental and Cultural Exchange in Maui

(from page 1)

The conference demonstrated excellent prospects for island studies, with over 200 participants from 36 countries presenting 120 papers in concurrent sessions and seven major presentations in plenary sessions. The conference inspired discussion and debate on issues ranging from culture and identity to governance, population health, and environment, in the context of a globalizing world. Christina Mata'aafa, a marine science student commented, "The trip was fun, educational and it was a great opportunity to meet and network with some interesting people." As part of the conference, all participants took part in several cultural activities such as *kapula* (weaving), tappa making, indigenous art, hula, and a variety of other cultural games.

Faiane Miller, ASCC Natural Resource major, stated, "It really opened my mind to the many opportunities in the environmental field. A big thanks to Dr. Hanson and Dr. Braun for giving us these opportunities." The participants would like to Thank Dr. Bob Howerton of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant program, Ann Coopersmith Organizer of the Small Islands of the World, Trilogy Tours for a fantastic day on the water, and the volunteers from the Haleakala National Park in Hana.

Governor Togiola prepares comparable site in Tafuna and Vaitogi for NPS in Utulei Beach Park land conversion

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today issued an update on the land conversion process for the Utulei Beach Park site with the National Park Service.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"Within the context of the framework we agreed to explore without prejudice to our respective positions, I am preparing the submission to go off some time this week or next. It will contain a map of the area that we are showing the National Park Service (NPS) and see if that would inspire an indication that it would be acceptable.

The information will also contain a thorough description of the usage as compared to Utulei and how we feel it is an adequate proposal. It will also have an appraisal of the comparable value of the lands being examined. If they acknowledge that the land is of comparable value to the land we leased in Utulei, then we will examine the legal process of a 'conversion.'

An official submission has not been made to NPS regarding the alternative sites that we are proposing to exchange, which include land in Tafuna, next door to the ASTCA facility and towards the mountainside of the baseball stadium, and land in Vaitogi.

It is hard to tell when we expect the conversion process to be completed because we have not even discussed the conversion process, yet. I am willing to speculate though that it may even take as long as 90 days to six months. At this time we are only working on identifying a potential exchange and see if NPS will indicate to me that they agree the land we are showing them is of comparable value to the part of the land in Utulei we leased."

New certified system for airport

(from page 1)

Governor Togiola, in his letter to Mr. Simpson, said he will be asking the Director of Port Administration and his airport staff to begin the process of making an application to the Honolulu office and FAA for purchasing such a system for our airport, in lieu of taking over the contracted weather advisory services. However, the Governor said it may take some time to procure and install the new system, so he has asked that advisory services contract be extended to the end of March next year.

"I would ask, therefore, that FAA extend the existing contract for advisory services for six months while we endeavor to install the new automated weather advisory service for Pago Pago International Airport," wrote the Governor. "I am also very concerned with putting the advisory service on the same frequency for turning on the lights at the airport. This process and system is costing our airport an unusually high cost for electricity because every time an airplane checks the weather, the lights on the runway comes on."

Governor Togiola said he has been at the airport on days when several flights arrived within in a two-hour period and the lights were on constantly during that time. He said he discovered that the lights come on when an aircraft calls in for weather advisory and remains on for twenty minutes.

"When another flight comes in within that 20 minutes, the lighting time is extended another 20 minutes, and so on. This is an extra expense we were not told that we would have to bear during the time when you were operating the contracted weather advisory," said Governor Togiola. "I ask that you inform our Port Administration people on how we can bill FAA for the extra cost in electricity because of the flawed planning of the advisory services resulting in this extra expense for our airport. I am anxious to find a solution to this mutual problem."

The way Superunicom / SuperAWOS works:

Three radio clicks trigger an airport advisory with only pertinent information. The system adapts advisory timing and content to the amount of system congestion. Advisories are provided to pilots within about 10 miles of the airport.

Three additional clicks after the basic advisory will give a pilot all the details, including information that might have been abbreviated in the basic advisory.

Four clicks trigger the radio-check. Superunicom will ask a pilot to transmit a brief message, then the system will echo - transmits the message back to the pilot.

Superunicom, which automatically greets inbound pilots, is aware of an airport's runways and configurations and local operating preferences. It also continuously measures current weather data and balances the information against the level of congestion on the system frequency.

Superunicom is aware of an airport's runway configuration, winds and traffic, it will actually call a specific runway based on prevailing winds and an analysis of aircraft transmission patterns of other aircraft over the system. It will call that runway only when conditions unambiguously recommend one runway over another and when there is no potential for conflicting traffic.

Other aspects of the system include the following: Alerts pilots to significant conditions such as crosswinds and wind-shear; Alerts pilots to significant wind changes from last advisory; The totally self-contained system is typically located at the airport's windsock, so pilots are afforded realistic runway conditions; Alerts inbound pilots to the presence of other air traffic the pattern.

Governor Togiola said today 'Superunicom / SuperAWOS' should definitely enhance the safety factor at Pago Pago International Airport.

"I think this system is the answer for our problem and since it qualifies for AIP funding, it makes sense for all of us," said Governor Togiola. "I have asked the FAA for assistance in installing at our airport this great system that they have certified. We're very concerned about safety measures for all pilots and by having this new system will remove the many challenges faced by pilots in obtaining the accurate information."

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

**Governor
Togiola
Tulafono**

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7a.m.**

On:

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**FA'ASALALAUGA****FA'ALAU'IA TELE****Lama E Team Lepto Ia Leposipairi**

Pago Pago, AS (Aukuso 7, 2006) – Aua le fa'apopleina oe pe a va'aia se meaola va'ono ma lona enetena umi, o lo'o u'uina ni laupepa ma savalivali atu i lou maota. O lenei “meaola” ua ta'ua o le “Team Lepto”, po'o le 'vaega e tete'e i le Lepto. O se metotia fou lenei ua fa'aaogaina e le Matagaluega o le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa (EPA) i le taumafai lea e puipuia le tatou si'osi'omaga mai otaota lafoa'i o meaitua'olo.

E tolu matagaluega o le malo o lo'o iai ni o latou sui i lenei taumafaiga: O le Ofisa o Fefa'ataua'iga, le Polokalama O Laufanua ma Atina'e mai le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi I Amerika Samoa, ma le Matagaluega o le Si'osi'omaga. E omai fa'atasi sui nei ona vaevaeina lea e ta'ito'atolu i le 'au po'o le vaega, ona o loa lea i tua i nu'u ma alalafaga. E lua ni mafua'aga ua ala ai o na fa'avaeina le Team Lepto ma galulue fa'atasi ai Ofisa 'ese'ese nei; (1)ua fa'aleagaina 'auvai ma matafaga mo ta'elega i otaota lafoa'i mai meaitua'olo, ma (2) ua fa'amaonia o le fa'ama'i o le leposipairi (leptospirosis) ua iai I Amerika Samoa. O lenei fa'ama'i e mafua i siana o lo'o i suavai lafoa'i o meaitua'olo ma e tusa e 10,000 tagatanu'u o Amerika Samoa na afaina ai i le lima tausaga ua mavae, ae to'afa i latou ua malilui i le leposipairi talu mai le tausaga e 2003.

O lo'o galulue malosi nei le Team Lepto ina ia puipuia le tatou soifua maloloina, fa'apea le tatou si'osi'omaga mai otaota o mea'itua'olo, ae maise fa'ama'i ona o nei otaota. O le vaega muamua o lenei taumafaiga o le o'o atu lea o Team Lepto i aiga ta'itasi, ae maise lava i latou o iai meaitua'olo, e talatalanoa ai le fa'ama'i o le Leposipairi, atoa ma tulafono i le fausiaina o nofoaga o meaitua'olo i Amerika Samoa. O le a fa'amatala au'ili'ili atu e Team Lepto aiaiga o le tulafono atoa ai ma le fa'ama'i o le leposipairi ma lona mafua'aga, i aiga o lo'o iai meaitua'olo. O le a fesiligia fo'i le 'au fai lafumanu mo le latou fesoasoani e tusa ai ma le talia o ni fesili mo fa'amaumaga a le Team Lepto I fainumera o meaitua'olo, le fausiaina o le pa, o fa'afitauli o lo'o faigata ai ona talafeagai lea nofoaga ma le tulafono atoa ai ma le tu'uina o le tulaga o le fale-pua'a i le fa'afanua,

O le fa'amoemoe o le vaega muamua o nei asiasiga ina ia o'o atu i nu'u ma alalafaga uma o Tutuila, Manu'a, Aunu'u ma le motu o Swains. Mai ia Iuni 12, 2006 se'i o'o ia Aukuso 8, 2006 ua mae'a asiasiga a le Team Lepto i nu'u ma alalafaga nei: Aua, Matu'u, Faganeanea, Nu'uuli, Pago Pago, Fagatogo, Leone, Ili'ili, Pava'ia'i ma Vailoa. E momoli atu le agaga fa'afetai o le Fa'atonu Sili, Fanuatele Dr.To'afa Vaiaga'e ma le EPA ona o le fesoasoani mai i lenei taumafaiga, ma le taliaina o le Team Lepto i maota ma laoa ese'ese. E momoli atu foi le fa'afetai a le EPA i le Failautusi o le Ofisa Mata'upu Tau Samoa, le Afioga Mauga T. Asuega fa'apea ma le Sui-Failautusi To'fa Nanai K.S. Afuola, atoa ma Susuga i Pulenu'u ma ali'i mautofi ona o le latou sapa'apa'a o lenei porokalama.

A mae'a asiasiga e talanoaina ai le leposipairi ma tulafono o nofoaga o mea'itua'olo, ona soso'o ai lea ma nisi asiasiga e fa'apitoa mo fale-pua'a. O le a fa'ailoa atu le gasologa o gaioiga a le Team Lepto e ala i lenei nusipepa. O lo'o avanoa fo'i le EPA mo nisi fa'amatalaga e uiga i lenei porokalame pe a e vala'au mai i le 633-2304.

FA'AFESO'OTA'I: Malelega Tuiolosega, Public Education Program Manager Ph: 633-2304 Email: lega9 t@hoo.com

Team Lepto Hunts for Leposipairi

(ASEPA PRESS RELEASE - Pago Pago, AS, August 7, 2006) - Do not be alarmed if you spot a six-legged creature armed with brochures and a long antenna approaching your home. Called “Team Lepto”, this creation of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) represents the latest approach for local environmental protection against harmful piggery waste.

“Team Lepto” refers to three-person teams comprised of representatives from ASEPA, the Department of Commerce (DOC), and the Community and Natural Resources Program of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC). Their alliance, and the eventual formation of Team Lepto, was driven by two factors: (1) streams and beaches polluted by piggery waste, and (2) the discovery that leptospirosis (leposipairi), a bacterial disease transmitted to humans through pig waste, had affected nearly 10,000 American Samoans in the past 5 years and killed at least 4 people since 2003.

Team Lepto is charged with protecting public health and the environment from uncontrolled piggery waste and the diseases found in this waste. Their first mission is strictly educational: teams go house to house providing information to families about leptospirosis and local piggery laws. At households with piggeries, Team Lepto delivers more extensive, tailored information. With the assistance of piggery owners, Team Lepto

also collects data about the piggery including waste disposal methods, piggery infrastructure, geo-location for mapping purposes, and barriers for bringing piggeries into compliance.

The goal of this first mission is to visit every village on Tutuila and Manu'a, and Aunu'u and Swains Islands over the next several months. To date, Team Lepto has completed visits in: Aua, Matu'u, Faganeanea, Nu'uuli, Pago Pago, Fagatogo, Leone, Ili'ili, Pava'ia'i and Vailoa. ASEPA appreciates the graciousness and cooperation of all the families that allowed Team Lepto into their homes. ASEPA would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, PC Mauga T. Asuega and Deputy Secretary HTC Nanai K.S. Afuola, as well as the respective village mayors for their assistance in the villages.

Following this educational phase, Team Lepto will continue its fight to right the damages from piggery waste by conducting follow-up piggery inspections. Look for more updates on Team Lepto's on-going fight against leposipairi in future editions of this publication. The ASEPA Water Program is available to answer your questions about this program or piggeries at 633-2304.

CONTACT: Malelega Tuiolosega, Public Education Program Manager, Ph: 633-2304 or Email: lega9 t@yahoo.com